

TOWN OF DURHAM

OFFICE OF THE FIRST SELECTMAN

LAURA L. FRANCIS



March 9, 2015

DSET Docket No. 13-01
Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection
Division of Statewide Emergency Telecommunications
1111 Country Club Road
Middletown, CT 06457

RE: DSET Docket No. 13-01

To Whom It May Concern:

I appreciate the opportunity to comment in strong support of the proposed changes to regulations pertaining to the funding of regional public safety answering points. I base my opinion on the findings of the 2011 L.R. Kimball consulting study where irrefutable funding disparities were identified. In review of the Kimball study, the State 9-1-1 Commission, through subcommittee review and recommendation, agreed that the formula should be modified to make it equitable and subsequently referred it to DSET for regulatory change. The Town of Durham is a member of a regional PSAP, which is supportive of another conclusion, that Connecticut move to regionalize more centers.

Examples set forth in DSET's NPRC document, including the proposed regulation, point out that centers with nearly equal populations can receive vastly different funding (see Docket page 4, Item 15 – \$300,000 variance). The imbalance creates vastly different percentages of support to nearly equal operating budgets (see Docket page 5, figure a – 76%-11.9% variance).

The highly funded centers are able to deliver services to their member municipalities at a much reduced rate and enables them to secure levels of technology that far surpasses under-funded centers. Underfunded centers are forced to rely on municipal members and must limit technical advances. The delivery of services to emergency service responders, and ultimately the public is affected by this problem. Exhaustive effort on this formula has concluded that this change is justified, and because this results in no financial increase on any level, we strongly urge that this regulation be moved to the Regulatory Committee unchanged.

Sincerely,

Laura L. Francis